

FIREFIGHTER I

The certification to this level will require the following:

- Step 1- Fulfill the examination entrance criteria
- Step 2- Submission and acceptance of an application, Medical Authorization for Certification form, Protective Clothing Compliance form, and fee by the deadline date.
- Step 3- Successful completion of a written examination.
- Step 4- Successful completion of a non-fire skills practical examination.
- Step 5- Successful completion of a fire skills practical examination.
- Step 6- Submission of proof of having met the medical first responder law of the Commonwealth.

STEP ONE- EXAMINATION ENTRANCE CRITERIA

Examination entrance criteria for this level is the following:

- 1- At least 18 years of age at the time of the examination.
- 2- Possess a high school diploma or GED at the time of the examination.
- 3- Be a member of the Massachusetts fire service.

STEP TWO- APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application, “Medical Authorization for Certification” form, “Protective Clothing Compliance” form, and fee must be submitted and received at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy no later than the deadline date noted in the examination schedule. The fee must be in the form of a personal check, bank draft, money order, municipal check, or municipal purchase order made to the order of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Trust Fund. All others will be rejected. Upon acceptance, the candidate will be assigned to the examination date requested on the application. All applicants will be notified by mail and if accepted will be supplied with all examination procedures.

STEP THREE- WRITTEN EXAMINATION

This section will consist of 100 multiple choice questions given in a 120 minute period designed to examine the knowledge of basic skills required by NFPA Standard 1001 for Firefighter I, 1997 edition, in the following subject areas: General, Fire Department Communications, Fireground Operations, and Prevention, Preparedness, and Maintenance.

The reference materials from which the questions for this written examination will be drawn are the following International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) manuals.

Essentials of Firefighting, fourth edition.

Hazardous Materials for First Responders, second edition.

Candidates will be issued a 2000 Emergency Response Guidebook and will be asked specific questions concerning this manual.

When available, specific chapters for each reference manual will be provided in the candidate's acceptance letter.

Upon successful completion of this written examination (70% or greater), the candidate will be assigned to a non-fire skills practical examination. The candidate will be notified by mail of the examination date, time, location, and supplied with examination information to include examination procedures and all potential practical skills to be examined.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS

The following are sample questions to represent most of the **type** of questions a candidate will be asked to answer during the written examination.

1. For a candidate for this level of certification to be successful, he or she must do the following.
 - A. Take the examination process seriously.
 - B. Read all documentation carefully.
 - C. Study all references and applicable skill sheets closely.
 - D. All of the above.
2. A fire extinguisher rated "BC" is designed to extinguish a fire involving...
 - A. Ordinary combustibles.
 - B. Flammable liquids greases only.
 - C. Flammable liquids and energized electrical equipment.
 - D. Energized electrical equipment only.
3. Of the following, which is **not** a respiratory hazard for the firefighter?
 - A. Elevated temperatures
 - B. Smoke
 - C. Oxygen deficiency
 - D. Large pieces of broken glass

4. The advantages of metal ladders being built from heat-treated aluminum alloy are that they...
- A. are lightweight, have adequate strength, and permit reliable visual inspection of all ladder parts.
 - B. are lightweight, have adequate strength, and conduct electricity.
 - C. are lightweight, have an increased possibility of articles freezing to the ladder in cold temperatures, and permit reliable visual inspection of all ladder parts.
 - D. have good electrical conductivity qualities, have adequate strength, and permit reliable visual inspection of all ladder parts.
5. The use of a solid or straight stream on the base of a fire is termed...
- A. an indirect attack.
 - B. a direct attack.
 - C. a combination attack.
 - D. a straight attack.

ANSWERS

1. B 2. C 3. D 4. A 5. B

STEP FOUR- NON-FIRE SKILLS PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

NOTICE: THIS PRACTICAL EXAMINATION REQUIRES THE PARTICIPANT TO UNDERGO VIGOROUS PHYSICAL EXERTION FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

The candidate will be examined in selected skills as required by NFPA 1001, Firefighter I, 1997 edition. Areas include, but are not limited to, the following: General, Fire Department Communications, Fireground Operations, and Prevention, Preparedness, and Maintenance.

All candidates will receive ALL potential skills sheets, which may be examined, but this practical examination will only address a certain few. All candidates should be able to demonstrate all skills as notification of which skills to be examined will be given only on the day of the non-fire skills practical examination.

Upon successful completion of this non-fire skills practical examination (70% or greater on each skill with no failures on critical points), the candidate will be assigned to a fire skills practical examination. The candidate will be notified by mail of the examination date, time, location, and supplied with examination information to include examination procedures and all potential practical skills to be examined.

STEP FIVE- FIRE SKILLS PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

NOTICE: THIS PRACTICAL EXAMINATION REQUIRES THE PARTICIPANT TO UNDERGO VIGOROUS PHYSICAL EXERTION FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

The candidate will be examined in selected skills as required by NFPA 1001, Firefighter I, 1997 edition. Areas include, but are not limited to, the following: General, Fire Department Communications, Fireground Operations, and Prevention, Preparedness, and Maintenance. This examination involves live fire extinguishment such as structures, vehicles, dumpsters, etc. Candidates will work in teams to complete the evolutions.

All candidates will receive ALL potential skills sheets, which may be examined, but this practical examination will only address a certain few. All candidates should be able to demonstrate all skills as notification of which skills to be examined will be given only on the day of the fire skills practical examination.

Candidates must achieve a 70% or greater on each skill with no failures on critical points to obtain a passing score in this fire skills examination. Candidates will be notified by mail of their examination results.

STEP SIX- MEDICAL FIRST RESPONDER FULFILLMENT

The applicant will be required to submit proof of successful completion of a course of instruction fulfilling the First Responder Training requirements of 105 CMR 171.010 through 171.240 as established by MGL Chapter 111, section 201 prior to becoming certified by the Training Council. This documentation may be submitted in any of the following forms.

A letter from the fire department Chief stating the candidate has met the requirements of 105 CMR 171.010 - 171.240 as established by MGL 111, section 201 OR...

A copy of a current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation certification card and a current First Responder Medical certification card which meets or exceeds the requirements of MGL Chapter 111, section 201 OR...

A copy of a current Emergency Medical Technician certification card OR...

A letter from the instructor(s) stating the candidate has successfully completed a course of instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and First Responder Medical Training which meets or exceeds the requirements of MGL Chapter 111, section 201 OR...

Any combination of the above, which fulfills the requirements as established by MGL Chapter 111, section 201.

Applicants are encouraged to submit this documentation with their application, “Medical Authorization for Certification” form, “Protective Clothing Compliance” form, and fee.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Protective clothing- Protective clothing will be inspected prior to any candidate participating in either examination (non-fire or fire) to assure the clothing meets the minimum requirements established by the Council. Your acceptance package will outline the inspection process for protective clothing. The Training Council reserves the right not to allow a candidate to participate in the examination for a lack of minimum protective clothing. There will be NO protective clothing available at the examination site.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus- Those candidates who wish to bring their own SCBA are encouraged to do so. However, it must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Duration of at least 30 minutes.
2. Capable of being operated in the positive pressure mode.
3. NIOSH/MSHA approved.
4. Spare air bottles must be from the same SCBA manufacturer as the unit.

SCBA will also be inspected prior to a candidate participating in either practical examination (non-fire or fire) and the Training Council reserves the right to not allow a candidate to be examined with SCBA not meeting the above criteria.

AT THE TIME OF THIS SCHEDULE'S PUBLICATION, THE TYPES OF SCBA AVAILABLE AT THE EXAMINATION SITE IS BEING REVISED. CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED OF SPECIFIC SCBA AVAILABILITY IN THEIR ACCEPTANCE PACKAGES.

Facial hair- Manufacturers of self-contained breathing apparatus and OSHA regulations recommend that persons wearing beards, side-burns, or lengthy hair styles should not wear self-contained breathing apparatus since it may interfere with a proper facepiece seal and render the unit ineffective. The Massachusetts Fire Training Council endorses this same policy. As Firefighter certification examinations utilize and examine SCBA practical skills, persons wearing beards, sideburns or lengthy hair styles which may interfere with a proper facepiece seal will not be allowed to take any part of the practical examination, non-fire or fire.